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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 MBFR-02 ACDA-10 L-02 H-01 PRS-01

IO-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /071 W
---------- 027310
R 221740 Z JUN 73
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 574
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
US MISSION GENEVA 1293
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR AND SALT: CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION

GENEVA FOR USDEL SALT TWO/ II

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

1. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO USNATO TO HAVE SOME IDEA OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS HAVE BEEN BRIEFED, OR WILL BE BRIEFED AND WHEN, REGARDING THE U. S. POSITION ON SALT AND MBFR.

2. U. S. PREFERENCE HAVE NOW IN PART EMERGED AND, AS REGARDS MBFR AT LEAST, HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN SOME DEPTH WITH OUR NATO ALLIES IN TERMS OF ULTIMATE NEGOTIATING PREFERENCES.

3. WHILE SOME BRIEFINGS MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE, I HAVE FELD UNDER- SOME RESTRAINT IN TALKING TO THE NUMEROUS RECENT CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS IN BRUSSELS NOT KNOWING WHO HAS BEEN BRIEFED AND TO WHAT
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EXTENT ON MBFR AND SALT. FURTHER, THESE VISITS, AND THE QUESTIONS CONGRESSMEN ASK, REPRESENTS A MISSING OPPORTUNITY IF WE FAIL TO PROVIDE ACCURATE UP- TO- DATE INFORMATION.

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4. I BELIEVE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING OF SUCH MATTERS AS SALT AND MBFR WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO SUPPORT OF THE ALLIANCE. OPPOSITION IN CONGRESS TO UNILATERAL U. S. FORCE REDUCTIONS WOULD LIKELY INCREASE IF THERE IS AN UNDERSTANDING IN CONGRESS THAT A CREDIBLE MBFR NEGOTIATION IS IN TRAIN. FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS MIGHT NOW BE TIMELY. DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON SALT AND MBFR, THE POSITION OF U. S. NEGOTIATORS IN DEALING BOTH WITH OUR ALLIES AND WITH THE OTHER SIDE WILL BE ENHANCED IF THEY APPEAR TO BE REPRESENTING, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, A UNIFIED POSITION SHARED WIDELY THROUGHOUT THE U. S. GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. MOREOVER, TIMELY PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES ON A CONTINUING BASIS WILL ENHANCE CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN BOTH FIELDS.

5. I THEREFORE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED AS TO WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN THIS DIRECTION AND WHAT IS PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE. OTHER AMBASSADORS IN NATO COUNTRIES MIGHT FIND SUCH INFORMATION HELPFUL AS WELL.
RUMSFELD

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